

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the operation of a prosthetic assist device, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) ~~utilising attaching a non-invasive device~~ non-invasive sensor externally to a patient to monitor or serially measure directly the blood flow through at least one heart ventricle to obtain a first measurement;

(b) separately monitoring, utilising said sensor, the blood flow through the prosthetic assist device to obtain a second measurement; and

(c) combining said two measurements to determine an overall native to prosthetic flow index so as to determine the effectiveness of the operation of said prosthetic assist device.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said ~~non-invasive~~ non-invasive device monitoring ~~or serial measurement~~ comprises continuous wave Doppler flow monitoring of the heart.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the heart is monitored ~~or serially measured~~ from a transducer placed adjacent the suprasternal notch.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method is repeated under a number of different operational conditions for a patient including walking and/or running.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method is repeated under a number of different pharmacological conditions for a patient.